

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1929

Along the Nancy Hanks Highway in Pocahontas County, the State Road Commission has erected signs so large that no matter how fast he runs he can read, showing that the lovely little river is Knapps Creek. The statute says that each highway shall be named by the State Road Commission but they have not got around to it yet. They, the authorities, do not object to names being given to the highways by unofficial bodies, and some of the roads are acquiring names in that way.

This article is going to cover a lot of ground and I do not know where it will all lead but it has something to do with the westward course of the empire. I gave up trying to name sermons long ago. The eagle eye of the editor of the Charleston Sunday Gazette, generally finds some key to the production. They would be hard to name before they were born. Like the little boy on the train who confided to a chance acquaintance, that up to the time he was born, that his name had been Betty.

With the righteous indignation of the press ringing in our ears concerning the iniquity of Doheny and Senclair, and Fall in seizing some of the public domain, it may be appropriate to write another chapter on the methods used to secure the title to lands on the Western Waters in the Indian reservation.

The best authority that can be found to justify that action is as follows: We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst drive us in times of old. How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and planted them; how thou didst afflict the people and cast them out. For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did they own arm save them; but thy right hand and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favor unto them.

That is very comforting doctrine. It is the only theory to support the movement that resulted in the United States and planted it where up to that time there had been a wilderness. True it has played hob with the hunting and fishing, but it is a great country.

Knapps Creek is the largest tributary of the Greenbrier River, and it is the stream that let the landowners into the Western Waters. By a peculiar geographical formation it leads to a low gap in the long Allegheny and when its channel turns going up stream to parallel that mountain for miles, it is only a few steps and no perceptible grades to the crest of the mountain at Riders Gap.

Its real name is Naps Creek after Naphthaliem Gregory, the pioneer who lived on the creek and was a great trapper, hunter, and fisher in the early Knappole era. In 1781, according to the language used in the will of General Andrew Lewis, the stream was named Ewings Creek, from the settler on the Moses Moore lands in the big valley of that stream. But the very earliest name recorded for the stream was Raggedy Creek, given it by Dr. Thomas Walker, the explorer. This name did not take.

Some very eminent men raked their brains and exercised all of their ingenuity to take over these public lands under color of law, under plea of necessity, and by the strong arm. The Greenbrier Valley was very attractive to them. There was a great expanse of limestone in that valley that made the land rich, and the valley for nearly two hundred miles lay open to the legal settlements of Virginia. The hunters followed the deer across the dead line and brought back glowing tales of a land of Canaan ready for occupation. Washington, Lewis, Walker, and Preston were the most active in working out some way to beat the law and occupy the land. They were reviled much in the same way that Doheny, Sinclair and Fall are now. The main complaint was that the Indians would rise and raid the whites. In this their accusers were right. One thing brought on another until they broke loose from the king and made their own laws. One of the very first that was passed was that anyone who had possession of any land on the Western Waters was entitled to 1400 acres around the place that his cabin or field or other improvement stood. A hatchet mark on a tree was worth 1400 acres of land.

It was about the time that the English government was in the long war with France, and London got tired of hearing France claim that they had a right to the Mississippi Valley because a man by the name of LaSalle had taken possession of it in the name of France. So the learned men on account of the morale of the country were required to find something that would offset that LaSalle claim, and they succeeded in digging up the record or log of the exploration by Batts and Fallam, who in 1671 were sent by the colony of Virginia to take possession of the Mississippi Valley, and who returned with the report that they had held the ceremony at the Fall of the Kanawha River on the 17th day of September, 1671. On this claim Great Britain succeeded in holding the waters of the Mississippi against the French, even taking over the French countries and courts of Illinois. I made a careful study of the record kept by Batts and Fallam, and came to the conclusion that they had reached the river at Kanawha Falls, and this without bias or prejudice.

Under the damnable convention that exists in other states got to let any credit for notable events fall on West Virginia soil, some illogical mind had said that the point reached by Batts and Fallam was the ripple at the Narrows just about on the line of West Virginia. Thus they put the curse of Moses on us. I do not object to what those historians did so much for every man must feather his

own nest. But what I do object to is for West Virginians to accept their conclusions without investigation. That is what causes me to gnash my expensive teeth. We are allowing ancient scandals affecting the good name of our ancestors to be taught in West Virginia schools today. A Chinaman would have more reverence than that.

The other day I got a letter from Col. Geo. S. Wallace, of Huntington, who has been a kind of a hero to me from my youth up. He is an able lawyer, a great warrior, and a careful historian. He said that he was like the Scotchman who told his wife that he had to hurry down to the tavern to contradict. He calls my attention to the book "The First Explorations in the Trans-Allegheny Region." That book states that the Batts and Fallam Expedition stopped at the line between Virginia and West Virginia, about Peters Mountain. I have had this book for years, only I was suspicious enough of the good faith of the foreigners to verify their report. I can assure the Colonel that their conclusion is false.

In the first place I call attention to the fact that the statement is not in the journal of the explorers. It is in the text of the editor in the nature of a noxious effluvium, and does not check-up with the account of Batts. And I say this fully realizing the fact that my conclusion is no more acceptable to the foreigner than his dictum is to me. I have this advantage however. I have never been on a payroll of a history department, and go to my work free and not like a man afraid of his job.

Batts and Fallam camped in the region of the Narrows on the night of the 13th day of September, 1671, having waded across the stream before making camp. They had followed the general direction of the stream pretty much all that day, having crossed over from the extreme head water of the Roanoke River. Then they traveled three more days and perhaps a part of a fourth in a north-westerly direction without coming to the river again, and when they did get there they saw a river as large as the James River at Richmond, (Col. Stagg's), and with water so still because that they reported that the river was affected by the tides of the ocean. It is about fifty miles in an air line from the Narrows to Kanawha Falls. The explorers were on a good Indian path. The weather was exceptionally dry even for the season of the year. It is altogether possible that pioneers could have walked and run it in a day. I have known men myself that walked eighty miles from Staunton to Dunmore over mountains one day. I have known a time when a raftsman worthy of the name walked from Ronceverte to Marlinton forty-six miles, over mountains in a day. Less than that would not have been considered an honor's day's work.

Furthermore Batts and Fallam estimated that they travelled west from Petersburg, Virginia, 360 miles. That they were on the flat-tops of the West Virginia peninsula. That they saw cliffs that looked like sails, a sight that is only to be seen along New River in the coal fields. That they were near the Salt Indians, that is, the salt works above Charleston. They cannot tell me that Batts and Fallam could not have reached Kanawha Falls in a three days walk from any point on New River near the headwaters of the Roanoke.

This is a question that can better be answered by any hunter, or trapper, or farmer, or postmaster, in the flat tops of West Virginia, than it can by a professor in a mid-western university. Bear in mind that from the time they left New River on the morning of the 14th of September, that they did not reach the river again until the 17th, three full days, and a part of a fourth. The Indian path has disappeared, but as old as I am I would be willing to bet a good five cent smoke, that I could walk that from the narrows to Kanawha Falls in three days, by way of Princeton, Beckley, Oak Hill, Fayetteville, a roundabout way compared to an Indian trail. Thirty-three miles a day would do it, and I might arrive at the Osenton mansion in a fainting condition. This by way of argument for the great god Gasoline, I am not going to try it.

Batts and Fallam made the kind of a dash for the Falls after the manner of the explorers on the last lap to the pole. Batts and Fallam carried no weight. They left their horses when they came to the mountains with the Indians. The reason I think they came around by the narrows is that on the 13th, they travelled down the stream north west and before night they found the stream running south west. It is the only place I can think of that this river runs southwest, and Batts says that they crossed it here for the one and only time and walked north-west for more than three days when they came to it again.

In returning, they took but three days to get back to the headwaters of the Roanoke at the Indian town where they had left their horses. They got there in the night time. They may have done some real hiking with their Indians on the way back. It is not at all certain that the journal of Batts and Fallam has been preserved as first kept. It was dug up for political purposes nearly a hundred years after it had been turned in, and the copies do not agree

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I think the confusion about the journey has arisen by not giving enough attention to the immense distance that the Indians and pioneers could cover between sun and sun on their trails in a case of emergency. Fields ran from Kelley's Creek to Muddy Creek 80 miles in one dash in 1774. This was regarded with some suspicion when I printed it years ago, but shortly afterwards, Evarts, who seems to be sound on history, discussed runs of the kind ranging from 95 to 125 miles, without a halt, generally in cases like that of Field's to escape death by torture.

There can be but little doubt that the kind of men that were chosen by the Indian trader, Col. Abraham Wood, to make a quick trip to the western waters were the kind of woodsmen who would walk and run sixty or seventy miles a day over the line trails that the Indians maintained over the country they traversed. There is no particular reason to doubt that these explorers reached the head of navigation on the Kanawha River, though they were mistaken when they reported that the river ebbed and flowed three feet each tide. But nowhere else up that swift stream was there a place where there could have been an appearance of a tidal river or a bore, as a tidal flood in a river is, sometimes called, but there are close observers who say that there is something similar to a moon-tide in the Kanawha River, which is to be observed while fishing in the still pools. It is a river of locks and dams now.

This has taken longer than I thought it would. Virgil A. Lewis in his school history says that Batts and Fallam reached the great falls of the Kanawha River, making the date September 15th, 1671. He says that Thomas Woods was with them. That is not correct. Thomas Wood did get far. He was left at an Indian town and died before the party returned. To return to the land schemes that founded our fortunes, and the time that Dr. Thomas Walker was in Pocahontas County, and named Knapps Creek, Ragged Creek.

Dr. Walker was born in King and Queen county in 1715 and was educated for a physician. He settled in Albemarle County and speedily got involved in land, a project in the Mississippi Valley. He was hand-in-glove with all the old patriots who chafed at the stubbornness of the king who would not let them take up the rich and reserved for the Indians. An Albemarle, he was the intimate friend of Thomas Jefferson, and it is considered that Jefferson and Walker were drawn together by the love of science. Walker served in the French and Indian war, 1755 to 1763, and was ranked as a major. He was a commissioner for Virginia at the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768. He was a member of the council of safety in 1777 and a member of the general assembly of Virginia in 1782; at the period when it was considered more of an honor to be a member of the legislature of Virginia, than it was to serve in Congress. He died in 1794.

Next year when the Seneca Trail gets finished down about the Narrows all West Virginia will take a whiff into a country of surpassing beauty and charm in the Pulaski part of Virginia. There they will see two crystal streams, Big and Little Walker Creeks.

These were named for the good doctor. Big Walker is probably the swift creek "like the one at Mr. Randolph's" that Batts speaks about. The histories say that Dr. Walker on one of his explorations was on Anthony's Creek in 1748, but as Walker kept a journal of that expedition, it is now ascertained that it was in 1750. That it will be remembered the year before General Andrew Lewis set his compass, and made the survey at Marlinton.

In 1750, Walker entered into a contract with the Loyal Land Company, which had a grant for 800,000 acres to be located north of the line dividing North Carolina and Virginia. This was another pious fraud in the way of permission to take land on the Western Waters. The tangle that New River made in the mountains enabled land-experts get some queer charters from the land office. He was to report on the kind of country embraced in the grant. His party consisted of himself, Ambrose Powell, William Tomlinson, Colby Chew, Henry Lawless, and John Hughes. Each had a riding horse, and there were two pack horses.

They lived on game mostly. During the months the party travelled they got 13 buffalo, 8 elk, 33 bear, 20 deer, 4 wild geese, about 150 turkeys, beside small game about 150 turkeys, and have killed three times as much meat if they had wanted it. After travelling in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, they came back by way of West Virginia, and on June 30, 1750, they came down the branch opposite Hinton. They found the current of New River strong, the bottom of rock, very slippery and uneven, and camped that night at Belle Point, at the mouth of Greenbrier River. From June 30 to July 6, they studied the country on the Greenbrier River, and in that time made by their calculation 58 miles, going around the Big Bend, and that brought them to the mouth of Howards Creek. Their guess at the miles was very nearly right considering the Big Bend. Their report

on the big levels on the highland above the river is that it was good but not open to entry, probably referring to the franchise of The Greenbrier Company issued at the same time as that of the Loyal Land Company. At Howards Creek they left the river and went by the White Sulphur Springs and following the draft came to Anthony's Creek at Alton. This was described as a large stream named after an Indian called John Anthony who hunted there. They camped that night four miles above Alton. The next day they travelled up Anthony's Creek all day and camped on a creek, "high the top of Allegheny Ridge." This stream is a part of Knapps Creek waters, and is on the old Alex Rider farm, now owned by Col. H. R. Wylie, of Huntington. Here, they stopped to mend their clothes, shave and make new shoes. Hence they called it Ragged Creek. The next day they got to the settlements on the Jackson River, where at Walker Johnston's and Robert Armstrong's. The next day to the Warm Springs, where six invalids were using the waters.

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Order of Publication

WEST VIRGINIA

At rules held in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, on the first Monday in the month of December, 1929.

Isaac P. Dean and Bank of Marlinton, a corporation, Plaintiffs vs. F. H. Kirkpatrick and Anna Kirkpatrick, Defendants. The object of this suit is to enforce a vendor's lien against certain real estate in the town of Marlinton in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, to recover the amount of unpaid purchase money on said land which is known as lot 1 and half of lot 2 in Block 41, a hotel or apartment house, to sell the same, and to have a receiver appointed to care for same and for general relief.

NOTICE

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

The undersigned, who have heretofore been engaged as partners in the garage business in the town of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, under the name of "General Garage" have this day by mutual consent, dissolved said partnership as follows:

First, The undersigned F. O. Dunbrack has purchased the entire interest of T. J. Mason in said business and will continue to operate said business at the same place and under the name "General Garage".

Second, All judgments, notes, and accounts are payable to the said F. O. Dunbrack.

Third, Said F. O. Dunbrack assumes the payment of all the indebtedness against said firm except as has been agreed between the parties.

Fourth, The said T. J. Mason will not be responsible for any indebtedness contracted in the name of the "General Garage" after this date.

Given under our hands this 9th day of December, 1929.

Notice to Stockholders

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Marlinton and Stony Creek Mutual Telephone Company will be held at Pine Grove School House on Saturday, January 4, 1930, at 10 o'clock p. m. for the election of officers and to transact any other business that may properly come before said meeting. All persons in arrears are requested to pay in full by that time as steps are being taken to dispose of the business.

For Sale

Forty pigs from 6 weeks up to 2 months old. Some Duroc crossed with Poland China, big bone type; also some Berkshire crossed with Poland China. Priced from \$2.50 up according to age. If interested write Greenbank, W. Va.

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FRUIT CAKES
JELLY ROLLS
And a dozen other kinds that are right.
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For sale, seven acres of fine meadow land in the town of Hillsboro. Four large haystacks on land. This is a small part of the James Lewis lands and has been in the Lewis family over a hundred years.
For terms apply to
Mrs. R. F. Yeager
Hillsboro, W. Va.

Constables' Sale
The County Court of Pocahontas County, who sees for the benefit of the President of Memorial Hospital, C. S. Javins; J. H. May; William Taylor; Dove Ryder; Ear. Wolfess; T. J. Mason; Arthur Logan; A. A. Sharp; J. L. Ray; Ben. D. W. Alderman; O. W. Buchanan; C. M. Kincaid; and M. E. Shinderry, Plaintiffs vs. Mountain Timber Corporation, a corporation, Defendant. By virtue of certain executions issued by T. S. McNeel, Justice of said Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in which the above styled are plaintiffs and the Mountain Timber Corporation is defendant, upon judgments rendered by said justice, all of said judgments bearing interest from their date, the undersigned constables will on the 21st day of December, 1929, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, on portable sawmill and engine known as Mill No. 1 of Mountain Timber Corporation, about three miles from Manahass Springs, on the waters of Donthards Creek, in the Hintonville District of said county, sell the above described sawmill and engine levied on by said constables to satisfy the executions in their hands.

TERMS OF SALE - One third cash and the balance in three and six months. The purchaser executing his negotiable note with security to be approved by said constables, with interest from date.

Given under our hands this the 21st day of November, 1929.
R. K. BURNS, C. P. C.
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Roy G. Humphreys
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Fiduciary Notice
The following fiduciary accounts are before the undersigned commissioner of accounts of Pocahontas county for settlement. The final settlement of D. M. Callison, Administrator of the estate of Mrs. Mattie J. Bright, deceased of Hillsboro, W. Va.

The final settlement of Jacob Hoover, Administrator, of the estate of French Hoover, deceased, of Marlinton, W. Va.
Given under my hand this 19th day of November.
T. S. McNeel, Commissioner

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"I WAS so weak," says Mrs. Josephine Cockcroft, of Baldock, S. C., "that I was not able to do anything. At certain times, I suffered dreadfully with pains in my back and sides. My head would hurt - felt like it would split open. Spells of weakness would last for weeks. I read of Cardui. I sent for a bottle and began taking it. My case was stubborn, and at times I almost lost hope, but I could see a little improvement. At last I began to feel much better. Then I improved rapidly. For the last year I have been in better health than I ever have been before. I give the credit to Cardui, for after I had given it a thorough trial, I got well!"

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Leaky radiators repaired and guaranteed.
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WEAK SPELLS
"I WAS so weak," says Mrs. Josephine Cockcroft, of Baldock, S. C., "that I was not able to do anything. At certain times, I suffered dreadfully with pains in my back and sides. My head would hurt - felt like it would split open. Spells of weakness would last for weeks. I read of Cardui. I sent for a bottle and began taking it. My case was stubborn, and at times I almost lost hope, but I could see a little improvement. At last I began to feel much better. Then I improved rapidly. For the last year I have been in better health than I ever have been before. I give the credit to Cardui, for after I had given it a thorough trial, I got well!"

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